



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

25 JULY 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) San Diego—Prison Bust Targets 20 Members of Mexican Mafia

(U) Twenty people are facing charges after a three-year investigation targeted members of a Mexican mafia prison gang. The investigation, labeled “Operation Emero,” revealed incarcerated Mexican Mafia members using facility phones, email, mail, and contraband cell phones to communicate with associates who were ordered to extort victims, sell drugs and collect money on behalf of incarcerated members. As a result of the operation, authorities seized \$51,000 in cash as well as methamphetamine and heroin. The investigation also led to the seizure of six firearms, including an AK-47.

SOURCE: 24 July 2017, [CBS 8 San Diego](#)

(U) San Luis Obispo—Federal Funding to Help Combat Panga Smuggling off Central Coast

(U) Central Coast law enforcement agencies are expected to receive federal funding to help combat panga smuggling. The US House of Representatives passed a Department of Homeland Security authorization bill that provides money to Operation Stonegarden, a grant program that helps local law enforcement combat transnational crimes. Specifically, in Santa Barbara and San Luis Counties, law enforcement is looking at protecting the 110 mile stretch of coastline from drug smuggling and human trafficking. The bill still has to pass through the Senate and be signed into law by President Trump.

SOURCE: 24 July 2017, [KSBY 6 San Luis Obispo](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Colorado—North Korea Able to Launch a ‘Limited Missile Attack,’ Warns Top US General

(U) Aspen—The chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff has publicly acknowledged that North Korea has the ability to launch what he calls a “limited missile attack,” and that American forces are able to defend such a move against the US and its allies in northeastern Asia. General Joe Dunford’s remarks on the North’s missile capabilities, which came during the Aspen Security Forum on 22 July, echo those from his deputy last week, stating that Pyongyang’s missiles may have the range to hit US targets but likely without “any degree of accuracy.” With regards to US efforts in getting Pyongyang to stop its nuclear program, Dunford said it was best to approach the issue through diplomatic and economic means.

SOURCE: 23 July 2017, [Time](#)

(U) Kansas—Man Gets 30-Year Sentence for Foiled Bomb Plot Targeting US Military Base

(U) Kansas City—A Kansas man was sentenced yesterday to 30 years in federal prison for plotting a failed suicide bombing at a US military base on behalf of ISIS, federal prosecutors said. John Booker Jr., 22, of Topeka, pleaded guilty in February to plotting the April 2015 attack on Army personnel at Fort Riley, Kansas, and aiding ISIS’ fight against the United States, the Justice Department said in a statement. Booker was arrested when he went to Fort Riley with two undercover Federal Bureau of Investigation agents to detonate what he did not know was an inert bomb.

SOURCE: 24 July 2017, [Reuters](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Afghanistan—Videos Suggest Russian Government May be Arming Taliban

(U) Kabul—The Taliban have received improved weaponry in Afghanistan that appears to have been supplied by the Russian government, according to videos obtained by US news media. Two videos show sniper rifles, Kalashnikov variants and heavy machine guns that weapons experts say are stripped of any means of identifying their origin. The Taliban claim to be in possession of the weapons, which they say were originally supplied by Russian government sources. US generals first suggested they were concerned the Russian government was seeking to arm the Afghan insurgents back in April, but corroborating the claims has proved difficult.

SOURCE: 25 July 2017, [CNN](#)

(U) Mexico—Drug Cartel Reportedly Turning to IEDs

(U) Mexico City—A Mexican drug cartel has added improvised explosive devices (IEDs) to its arsenal after drawing inspiration from Colombia's largest rebel group. The New Generation Jalisco Cartel (CJNG) has started using IEDs modeled after ones produced by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, according to a new report from Mexico's Center for Research and National Security (CISEN). CISEN warns that deadly attacks involving these IEDs may increase in the near future because of CJNG's rapid expansion, according to Mexican media.

SOURCE: 24 July 2017, [Houston Chronicle](#)

(U) Pakistan—Taliban Bike Bomb Kills 26

(U) Lahore—At least 26 people were killed and more than 50 were injured when a bomb went off near a busy vegetable market in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, officials say. Reports suggest it was a suicide bomber on a motorbike, and the target may have been police working to clear stalls that had illegally spilled into the road. The Pakistani Taliban said it was behind the explosion, which was the latest in a series of explosions in Lahore in recent months.

SOURCE: 24 July 2017, [BBC](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) Texas—Tractor-Trailer Smuggling Victim Says Zeta Cartel Behind Border Crossing

(U) San Antonio—People close to the Zetas Cartel helped some immigrants cross the Rio Grande, according to one man who survived the drive inside a tractor-trailer from Laredo to San Antonio over the weekend. The man told authorities he waited with a group of 28 other people to be smuggled into the US, and were charged by the Zetas "11,000 Mexican pesos for protection and 1,500 Mexican pesos to cross by raft since the river ran deep in that area," according to the criminal complaint. Ten people who were inside the trailer have died and dozens were taken to area hospitals.

SOURCE: 24 July 2017, [San Antonio Express-News](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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